

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PFOR, SOCI, UN

SUBJ: AIR FORCE TRIAL; TRIAL DAWSON ISLAND PRISONERS

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 2024; (B) SANTIAGO 2061

1. PROMPT AND EXCELLENT REPORTS APPRECIATED. DEPT CONCURS EMB ESTIMATE IMPORTANT CONTINUING INTEREST, ESPECIALLY CONGRESSIONAL, PRESS, ACADEMICS, CHURCH, LEGAL AND OTHER GROUPS HERE. MORE OR LESS DAILY EMBASSY REPORTING PRESENT INITIAL STAGE SHOULD TEND DEEPEN, WIDEN EMBASSY'S ALREADY EXCELLENT RESOURCES THIS AREA AND SHOULD PERMIT EARLIEST AND BEST POSSIBLE ESTIMATE DIRECTION FUTURE LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS (E.G. DEFENSE TACTICS, IMPORTANCE AND USE ISSUE OF TORTURE, ATTITUDE COURT TOWARD THEORY OF ILLEGALITY ALLENDE GOVERNMENT, USE OF CONFESSIONS, SIGNIFICANCE - IF ANY - NON-APPEARANCE 3 DEFENDANTS AND ILLNESS WOMAN DEFENDANT, EFFECT FOREIGN OBSERVERS, POSSIBILITIES REVERSAL TRIAL COURT LEGAL RULINGS ON APPEAL, ETC.)

2. DEPT ANTICIPATES THAT AIRING OF AIR FORCE DEFENDANTS' STORIES, WHETHER IN COURT OR BY LAWYERS TO PRESS, ESPECIALLY AGAINST BACKGROUND RECENT EXCLUSION ICRC FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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DAWSON ISLAND COINCIDENTAL WITH REPORT OF UPCOMING

DAWSON ISLAND TRIALS, STIRRINGS WITHIN CATHOLIC CHURCH
ON QUESTION OF POLICE METHODS, ETC., COULD GENERATE
SERIES OF REACTIONS IN CHILE AND OVERSEAS AND AFFECT

GOVERNMENT POLICIES ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS FOR BETTER OR FOR
WORSE. CONTINUING CLOSE TOUCH WITH TRIAL PROCEEDINGS
AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS OF COURSE CENTRAL TO UNDER-
STANDING THIS AREA.

3. WHAT ARE TRADITIONS AND PRECEDENTS IN CHILE RESPECT-
ING DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN PERSONS - PRIVATE OR
GOVERNMENTAL - OBSERVING COURT PROCEEDINGS INCLUDING
CRIMINAL TRIALS? WHAT IS PROCEDURE FOR SECURING
ADMISSION AND WHAT APPEAR TO BE STANDARDS AND RATIONALE
APPLIED BY GOC IN ALLOWING ATTENDANCE AIR FORCE TRIAL?
ANTICIPATED FOR DAWSON ISLAND TRIAL?

4. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE AS TIME PERMITS EMBASSY'S
BEST ESTIMATE RE DAWSON ISLAND TRIALS OF (1)
DRAMATIS PERSONAE, INCLUDING DEFENSE COUNSEL, (2)
LIKELY CHARGES, (3) IDENTITY TRIAL COURT, (4) OTHER
PRELIMINARY COMMENT. RUSH

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